

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 4, 7, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17 and 23 as follows:

BA 1  
5. (amended) A method as claimed in [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 4] wherein the acid residues in the esterified material are of the formula  $\text{Alk-C(=O)-O}$  in which Alk is an alkyl group of 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

BB  
7. (amended) A method as claimed in [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 6] wherein the plant material comprises lignocellulose.

D BB  
10. (amended) A method as claimed in [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 6] wherein the source of the lignocellulose is selected from <sup>the group consisting of</sup> wood, straw, flax, linseed, bagasse, sisal, jute, kenaf, miscanthus, coir, ~~cotton~~ and hemp.

11. (amended) A method as claimed in [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 10] wherein the water-immiscible liquid is an oil.

AY  
15. (amended) A method as claimed in [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 10] wherein the water-immiscible liquid is an organic solvent or a pesticide residue.

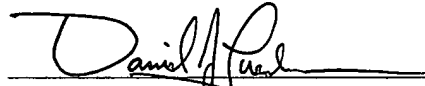
Sub B3  
16. (amended) A method as claimed in [any one of] claim[s]  
1 [to 10] for the filtration or removal of a hydrophobic  
water-immiscible liquid from a mixture of such a liquid with  
water.

17. (amended) A method as claimed in [any one of] claim[s]  
1 [to 10] for the retention of transformer oil on a paper.

23. (amended) An article as claimed in claim 20 [or 21 or  
a sheet as claimed in claim 22] wherein the plant material  
comprises lignocellulose.

Respectfully submitted,

By

  
Daniel J. Lueders  
Reg. No. 32,581  
Woodard, Emhardt, Naughton  
Moriarty & McNett  
Bank One Center Tower  
111 Monument Circle, Suite 3700  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-5137

(317) 634-3456